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## ANCIENT METHODS OF STRIKING COINS.

IN the last number of the *Journal* we gave a translation from a recent number of *Revue Belge de Numismatique*, of an interesting paper by Mons. V. Lemaire, of Gand, on the methods used by the ancients in preparing the dies from which their coins were struck; from the interest in the subject shown in letters received by the Editors, we feel justified in presenting a translation of the concluding portion of the same paper, treating of the methods employed for striking the coins, after the dies had been prepared; and without further preface, we print below Mons. Lemaire's theories on this important branch of the subject; we have endeavored to give his views as closely as possible, while not attempting to confine ourselves to an exact literal translation.

Let us now consider the striking. This we know was done with a hammer (*marteau*). Here we remark, that while it was easy to strike coins in this way, which bore a device on one side only, it was a much more difficult task to do this when it became necessary to strike both sides at a single impression. The artists in charge of minting money were fortunate in finding some efficacious mechanical method of readily placing the dies opposite each other, in proper position. The place by which the planchet was held in a tool resembling the modern forceps (*L'espèce de pince*) which we have noticed on dies in the Musée Monétaire at Paris, at a time when the collection of dies was more accessible to the public than at present, gives us an idea of the methods in use — methods indeed very elementary. A tool of this kind does not allow an exact adjustment, in consequence of the play of its hinge, and its long arms; yet it could place the planchet with a fair degree of accuracy so far as the front and back edges of the coin are concerned; sidewise, however, there would inevitably be considerable variation. It required much more perfect instruments for striking the thick money (*fourrée*). For this, the dies must be placed with great exactness opposite each other; instruments which would accomplish this by sliding (*glissement*) are alone able to give the precision so absolutely indispensable. The "collar" used in modern mints is the simplest and surest means of regulating this matter, but antiquity did not know all the methods which we employ. If we con-



sider how a blow disarranges the most careful adjustments by the vibrations which it produces, we are forced to the inquiry whether the stroke necessary to bring out the device on a thick coin was not obtained by a press, or a rammer (*mouton*).

It would not be surprising if it should be found that the mintage of money and of medals, under the Greek and Roman civilization, was considerably further advanced than writers on this subject would have us believe. A careful study of original sources, raises many objections to the theories of such writers. If they tell us that the processes used by the brilliant Greeks and the powerful Romans survived, and that all through medieval times the people continued to make use of the same methods, in striking their money, which had obtained in remote antiquity, we ask in reply whether it is not probable that in this matter, as in so many others, the middle ages may have fallen into a lethargic slumber, from which our modern days have with difficulty awakened.

Will any one tell us that the middle ages can properly be regarded as the time when the processes of mintage used by Greece and Rome were carefully preserved? Is it necessary to claim much for the organization of such mints for striking money (*des usines à monnaie*) as the officer of the State carried about with him, when he was sent to collect a tax from some given place, the moneyer who accompanied him, turning into cash the metal into which the tribute imposed had been converted? We know very well that the abbots and nobles had their private mints for striking money, immovably fixed behind their fortress walls;—a privilege often usurped, or carried on without proper authority,—but what value does this have to us in the present discussion?

The processes essential to their work, employed by the moneyers of medieval times, were extremely simple; their dies were pieces of the iron which we call steel, the face dressed with a file; on this, often in haste, the device was cut by a burin or small chisel; the letters were stamped by means of small punches which made the principal portions, and then they were touched up by the burin, more or less carefully, as it happened; and the engraving having thus been completed, the dies were tempered and ready for use.

One often finds a depression on the edges of letters on coins struck in this manner; this clearly shows that a burr on the die had been produced by the punches. But the artist had a very simple way of getting rid of these protuberances; he merely filed them away! He chose to leave to posterity the clearest evidence of his great skill and intelligence!

The method of striking coins with a blow from a hammer did not at once disappear with the dawn of better times; it lasted until the sixteenth century. The process of mintage improved but slowly. It has been shown that in France, during the reign of King Henry II, money was struck very much in the same style as coppersmiths produce their work; they place their drives (*bigorne*) in a piece of wood, which has the effect of reducing the noise of the blow, and preventing a rebound from the stroke of the hammer. The matrix (or die of the reverse) was on a sort of shank, having its stem enlarged, so as to prevent its sinking into the wood in which it was held by its point, or foot; the planchet was then placed upon this, and covered with

the counter-die, (or obverse,) held in the hand, and then a blow was given upon the whole, by the hammer. It was somewhat after this manner that the ancients struck their coins six centuries before our era: clearly the use of the Roman forceps,<sup>1</sup> as compared with the method employed in the time of Henry II of France, was a wonderful invention.

The money of the middle ages is generally thin; that of earlier times is remarkable for its thickness. The former was struck in cold metal, and always from dies of steel; the latter,—that of antiquity,—imperatively required to be struck from hot metal when bronze dies were used, on account of the moderate resistance to a blow, which those dies could give. In order to strike such money while still hot, it was necessary that the metal should be brought to a red heat, that the red-hot planchet should be placed at once upon the die, and the blow given while it was still in that state; otherwise no greater advantage would ensue than if the planchet had been struck cold. Gold and silver, in effect, behave exactly as iron does, which can only be brought with any ease into the desired form at the forge, when it has been thoroughly and for a considerable time, brought to a red heat. When properly refined, gold and silver are quite malleable when cold; but when heated, that is to redness, they are worked “as easily as butter,” as the expression is; in that condition they adapt themselves far more readily and quickly to the form of the mould or die. The ancients therefore had good reason, when striking their thick money, for making the planchets of a globular form, which alone is able to hold for several seconds a red heat,—during the time necessary to carry them and place them on the dies,—operations which require the greatest celerity to be successfully accomplished. There is reason then for us to admire the skill of the workmen [*suppostores*, literally, those who placed the metal under the die] who took, red hot from the fire, a quantity of metal as small as that used for these coins, and placed it, still red, with great exactness on the die, more or less cold, contact with which was by no means favorable to the retention of heat in the planchet.

We are told that the ancients struck the same coin several times in succession, while it was still hot; and that one must believe that this was done, because the pieces are struck completely (*partout*). Very well; let us believe so, with ordinary mortals, since that will do no harm to any one; but if we should be asked to perform the operation of striking such a piece ourselves, after the antique methods—ah, then we should find a different state of things; there would be great reason to fear that we should become unbelievers (*mécréants*); we should be obliged to lay out our plan of operations in advance, that we might not be hindered by any unforeseen accidents; we should say to ourselves, (1) We must first carry, quickly and successfully, our globular flan<sup>2</sup> heated red-hot, to the die, but in a condition to be grasped with the forceps, of which the holding-ends (*mâchoires*) are themselves red-hot: (2) If our flan gets to the die red, and in good condi-

1 Mons. Lemaire appears, by a passage in his paper which will be found further on, to imply that there was a difference in construction between the early forceps, used by the Greeks, and the “Roman forceps” (pince romaine). So far as we can gather, the first would seem to have resembled the tongs or large pincers, now used by blacksmiths; while the “Roman forceps” was perhaps something like our bullet mould, with the die at one end of the arm, and the parts arranged to inter-

lock, instead of being *hinged*, as the more ancient instrument was. This is merely our inference, for he does not describe the latter, and we have been unable, after such inquiries as we have made, to learn of any ancient dies in our American Museums.

2 The word I retain in this passage as the term the author uses to denote the bit of globular metal for thick money, instead of the more familiar word planchet.

tion, then it must be covered very promptly with the counter-die and this must fall exactly into place; otherwise the flan will get cold before we shall be able to strike it: (3) If the piece has already received an imperfect impression, and it is necessary to put it again in the die so as to fit the engraved device, and then to place upon it the counter-die, so that *its* device also will be in proper place, and if all these operations must be done by hand, with more or less uncertainty (*en tâtonnant*), we should probably find that our die was cold before we were able to give it a stroke with the hammer: (4) To hold the counter-die in place with the hand—well, that is not the most tranquilizing thing one could do—when one has an assistant who is to strike the blow; he might give an unlucky stroke—it would not be desirable to have one of our hands bruised, even though we have two . . . No, decidedly this is not a very practical way of working. Ah, but then . . . let us invent the Roman forceps: ' that tool is not such a bad thing after all. Let us see: our helper (*suppositor*) places the flan, heated red-hot, on the die, very nicely by the aid of his instrument. . . . Pan! Pan! . . . The counter-die is all ready in advance, and we place it with a vigorous blow, as if it were a hammer, upon the flan still red-hot, and a second assistant follows us, and having two hands to work with, he strikes in his turn a powerful blow with a heavy sledge. He cannot strike more than a single blow before the flan has become black, cold, and unfit for further working (*écroui*) even under the two blows only, which it has received.

Is our money all right, now? Some pieces are, and some are not. We will put back into the fire those that need it, to heat them up and strike them over again. But how shall we get them back again into the right place in the die with sufficient haste to keep them red-hot until they are struck? They will not drop of themselves exactly into the same place, as they might if the die were a square one. If we place a point in the matrix, after the example of the Egyptians, we should add a blemish to the engraving, without gaining anything of special advantage to guide us, above what the design itself affords. . . . Now, then, we will strike the die in our forceps without further thought of the preceding blow given to the flan, while the piece was imperfect; yet now that it is half coined, the die will fall, it is more than likely, on one side or the other of the first impression; our piece will be "double-struck." . . . No; all this will not accomplish perfectly what we are trying to do; and we shall have to invent a more perfect pair of forceps.

But wait a moment; is it really necessary that we must strike our flan a second time, while it is hot? Our coin is well advanced by the first blow it received while hot; heating it over will give a new malleability to our gold, which is fine or virgin gold, as it is called. . . . If we had been required to strike our money of .900 fineness, or perhaps of .800 or .750, we should alloy the gold with refined silver, without regard to cost, to have our gold yellow, or perhaps a little pale,—the electrum of the ancients—but very ductile. A copper alloy will give us a gold too hard, one which will crack or shiver in striking, and which will also be of a deeper shade of red than the others. . . . As to silver coins, the same rules will apply, since fortunately they are of a fine metal; besides, if we are commissioned to strike them of .900 fineness, we shall very probably have to use hot metal to finish them.

It is then well understood what we have to do, and we have established a rule for our action: we fasten our dies to a suitable pair of forceps, and strike the first blow while the metal is hot; then after it has cooled, we strike another blow, if that is necessary, being then able to replace the coin in its proper position on the die, and to cover it with the counter-die. The striking will be continued by two sharp blows given by our assistant, after each re-heating. This method will enable us to cleanse (*derocher*) our pieces before each striking, and to remove the oxyde and other impurities adhering to the metal from the fire, which result from striking the money hot.

Striking on cold metal, if I am not mistaken, is not an invention dating from the middle ages; the peoples of Antiquity practiced it. It is known that under the reign of the Princes of the family of Constantine, and a little earlier, money was struck cold, with dies of tempered steel, securely fastened in a block of bronze or iron, which was usually surrounded by a raised border, this border being somewhat larger than the planchet, and consequently *not being able to serve as a "collar" to hold the flan in place under the blow.*

Does it require any argument to prove that this "raised border" marks a process of coining of ingenious simplicity?

Let us take the Roman denarius of Carisius: It may be impossible to discover on this coin all that we should like to see, but we can clearly distinguish the anvil-block. Let us suppose that we see a hollow in the block, and we are certain that in this hollow place was deposited one of the dies, that of the obverse, for example. The forceps serve to take the flan red-hot from the fire, and place it upon the die. The flan being in place, it is covered with a sort of cap, as one may see sometimes on the top of a denarius [or, as we should say, when the piece is not well centered] and which is nothing else than the block of iron containing the reverse die. The raised border "which is not able to serve as a collar to hold the flan in place" has the function of guiding the die and bringing it into its proper place relatively to the obverse die, which has a border also, of its own, — one fitting the other. A mark on the outside of each shows where they should come together, and by means of this the dies are quickly and certainly adjusted.

A small or medium-size coin can in this way be readily struck with a blow from a hammer, holding the dies in one hand. When larger pieces or medals are to be struck, the dies receive a blow from a large hammer [or sledge] which the assistant gives, using both hands and the utmost force possible.

This raised border we see, therefore, has a very important function. The method of coining with the modern collar was not as yet discovered, but the system had even then attained a remarkable perfection.

When coining from cold metal was in general use, the dies were no longer cut by a lathe; not because such dies were not adapted to that kind of striking, but because it was no longer the practice to make them in that way. It had then become the universal custom to engrave the dies with a burin, and by means of small punches and chisels.

It does not appear that the ancients made their dies by the use of punches. This can be explained in part by the fact that it is more difficult to cut sharply a design in relief, than to engrave it in intaglio. If there were no other reasons, this would be sufficient to explain their preference for intaglios.



The change in the method of engraving was not accomplished by a single step: some audacious man, strong in the power of his genius, desired to do something different from his predecessors; but he did not invent all the steps in a process like that of engraving by the burin. Whether therefore the dies made by a lathe or those cut by a burin were the earlier, all the coins of antiquity were struck in accordance with the methods originally used by the Greeks. The engraving is often superb, but the retouching by a tool, which one occasionally discovers, and which seems to show a desire to continue the Greek traditions, proves that in the end later coiners did not conform to them. The legends, in particular, have letters of an entirely different appearance; the engraver of gems, whose tools have a round end,<sup>1</sup> was not able to finish the ends of the letters with a sharp line, such as a burin gives; he made the I for instance, by a line deeper and thicker in the centre than at the extremities, and then usually finished it by placing a dot at each end. The engraver with a burin was able to imitate exactly the letters which the Greek lapidaries fancied when cutting their gems, but he did not do this. He had his own style and he followed that. It was also easier and more expeditious than to make the letters by means of punches, as he was able to work in that way [*i. e.* with the burin] on metals.

When one studies the engraving of the money of the Roman epoch, he cannot but be astonished at the remarkable skill which the artists of those times had acquired in the use of a tool so rigid as the burin, and must admit that a skill so remarkable could not have been acquired without long and careful practice, and under the inspiration of works and traditions of which it would be difficult to fix precisely the period, the importance or the duration.

## AN UNKNOWN CONTINENT ON A PRE-COLUMBIAN MEDAL.

*Editors of the Journal:—*

I HAVE lately seen a description of a Medal of the Renaissance, the dies of which are said to have been cut by François Laurana, who is best known, perhaps, by the work which he executed for Rene of Anjou, the father-in-law of Henry VI of England. This King is said to have not merely furnished the legends for the different pieces which he ordered to be struck, but to have sometimes suggested the designs also. Whether he supplied that on the piece which I am about to mention, is a question which probably cannot now be determined.

This Medal was struck in 1461, thirty-one years before Columbus sailed on his voyage to discover the new world; and singularly, it bears an allusion to an unknown continent. The obverse has the bust of Charles of Anjou, a younger brother of Rene. On the reverse are the three known continents, "EVROPA, ASIA, AFRICA," and at the bottom "an immense continent which is named BRVMAE." Can any of your readers explain the origin and meaning of the term or name of *Brumae*? Is there any other medal which has a similar allusion to an "unknown world?" The piece is of bronze, and a description can be found in the work by M. Alois Heiss, entitled, "*Les Médailleurs de la Renaissance*."

C. H. C.

<sup>1</sup> The lapidary certainly, and, as Mons. Lemaire endeavored to show in that portion of his paper printed in the last number of the *Journal*, the engravers of the best Greek dies, probably, used a lathe, which revolved

the cutting tool very rapidly, the end of which therefore resembled a small wheel,—which is the allusion in the expression "a round end."—ED.



# THE MEDALS, JETONS, AND TOKENS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

BY DR. HORATIO R. STORER, NEWPORT, R. I.

[Continued from Vol. XXVI, p. 82.]

Since the last publication I have discovered three new American medicals, and will here insert them. The first belongs with B. I. Medical Colleges.

New York College of Dentistry.

409. *Obv.* and *rev.* as No. 145, save that field of the latter is without inscription. Bronze. 29.

In my collection.

The others should be classed under B. 2. Hospitals.

410. *Obv.* Nude bust, with queue, to right. Upon neck: G. H. L(OVETT). Inscription: GEORGE-WASHINGTON *Rev.* WASHINGTON | K(RANKEN). U(NTERSTUETZUNGS). VEREIN (Society for Relieving the Sick) | 40 JAEHRIGE | GRUENDUNGS-FEIER | MAI ' 16 1891. Bronze. 26. Edge of obverse lined; of reverse, finely milled. Thick planchet.

In my collection. This medal and the preceding were brought to my notice by Prof. S. Oettinger of New York.

- 410a. *Obv.* PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND - - within field, REWARD | OF | MERIT. *Rev.* Crossed laurel branches, tied with ribbon. Bronze. 23.

In my collection.

There exists a medal of the late Rev. Fr. Mollinger, of Alleghany, Pa., who had been educated as a physician, and attained reputation as a "faith-curer." I admit it only as I did those of Rev. Bp. Berkeley and Rev. John Wesley, under F. b. Irregular Practitioners, and without numbering it.

*Obv.* A saint standing, surrounded by five crosses. ST ANTONI PATAV ORA PRO NOBIS *Rev.* SOUVENIR OF FATHER MOLLINGER. Copper. Oblong. 10x25. Communicated to me by Mr. Geo. W. Rode of Pittsburgh. The regular enumeration will now be resumed.

Gordon & Thurston. Wabash, Ind.

411. Copper. 13.  
*Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 86. In the collection of Mr. F. C. Browne, of Framingham, Mass.

Greenman, A. G. Sandwich, Ill.

412. Copper. 13.

Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 1630; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 22.

Gregory, J. R. & Co.

413. Vulcanite.

Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 42; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 202.

Hagan, W. E. Troy, N. Y.

414. Vulcanite. 12.

Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 42; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 57, No. 5; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 203.

In my collection.

Haines & Boyer. Erie, Pa.

415. Shell (\$20). 22.

Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 50.

Hall, E. W. Whitehall, N. Y.

416. Copper, brass. 12.

Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 3723; Neumann, No. 39,301; *Numismatische Zeitung*, 1867, p. 42; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1882, p. 58.

In my collection.

Hall, Roland B.

417. Vulcanite.

Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 42.

Harris, T. B. Cincinnati, Ohio.

418. German silver. 12.

Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 198.

In my collection.

Haviland, Stevenson & Co.

Charleston, S. C.

419. Copper, brass. 18. Rare.

Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1881, p. 56, No. 66.

In my collection.

Helmbold. New York.

420. Vulcanite.

*Ibid.*, 1884, p. 43; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 204.

421. Shell (silver dollar).

Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 50.

Higby & Stearns. Detroit, Mich.

422. Copper. 13.

Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2265; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 115.

423. Copper, brass. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 2266-8; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 115.
424. As preceding, save date 1864. Nickel. 13.  
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.  
See also No. 224 (Dentists' tokens).  
Holland, S. & Son. Jackson, Mich.
425. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2510; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 169, No. 2.  
In my collection.
426. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2511; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 169, No. 1.  
Holmes & Norton. Rockford, Ill.
427. Copper. 12.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 1621; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 21, No. 4.
428. Copper. 12.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 1622; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 21, No. 3.  
Hord, Thos. F. Murphysboro, Ill.
429. Shell (\$20). 22.  
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 49.  
Houck. Baltimore, Md.
430. Within a semi-oval space: HOUCK'S  
| PANACEA | BALTIMORE This rare counterstamp exists upon half dollars of the date of 1834 and thereabouts.  
Frossard, Seventy-third Cat. 12-13 Oct., 1887, No. 900.  
Hudnut. New York.
431. Vulcanite. 21.  
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 43.  
In my collection.  
Hunt, J. W. Delphos, Ohio.
432. Copper, brass. 12.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4613; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 121.
433. Copper. 12.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4614.  
In my collection.  
Icenhour & Co. Columbiana, Ohio.
434. Copper, brass. 13.  
*Ibid.*, No. 4581.  
In my collection.  
Johnson, Philip. Jefferson, Wis.
435. Copper. 13.  
*Ibid.*, No. 5364; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 194.
- Johnson, W. S. & Bro. Henderson, Ky.
436. Edges milled. Tin. 12.  
Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 205.  
In my collection.  
Keach. Baltimore, Md.
437. Silver. 10. Rare.  
Bushnell, *loc. cit.*, Baltimore tokens, No. 3; Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 198; Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 206.  
In the Fisher Collection and my own.  
Kilbride, G. Philadelphia, Pa.
438. White metal. 14. *Rev.* as No. 386. (Frederick.)  
*Coin Collectors' Jour.*, I, 1876, p. 164, CLXII.
439. White metal. 14. *Rev.* as No. 387. (Frederick.)  
*Ibid.*, CLXIII.
440. White metal. 14. *Rev.* as No. 388. (Frederick.)  
*Ibid.*, CLXIV.
441. White metal. 14. *Rev.* as No. 389. (Frederick.)  
*Ibid.*, CLXV.
442. White metal. 14. *Rev.* View of the building. Inscription: CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON  
*Ibid.*, CLXVI.  
Kingsland, John S. & Brother.  
Stryker, Ohio.
443. Copper. 13.  
*Ibid.*, VIII, 1883, p. 146.  
In my collection.
444. *Obv.* as preceding. *Rev.* Hammer and arm, etc. Copper. 13.  
In my collection.  
Knight, A. Baltimore, Md.
445. Edge of *obv.* milled, of *rev.* beaded. Silver. 11. Rare.  
Storer, *loc. cit.*, No. 207.  
In my collection.  
Lallemand ("Rheumatism Gout & Neuralgia Specific"). See Blood, John H., No. 311.
446. *Obv.* as above. *Rev.* Indian head, THE PRAIRIE FLOWER. 1863. Nickel. 13.  
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.  
Lanphear, W. K. Cincinnati, Ohio.
447. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4111.
448. Copper. 13.  
*Ibid.*, No. 4138.

449. Copper, brass. 13.  
*Ibid.*, Nos. 4202-3.
450. *Obv.* as the last. *Rev.* as that of the first. Copper. 13.  
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.  
Mr. Lanphear was a die-cutter, but as the above tokens might convey the impression that he was a druggist, they are inserted here.  
Laurence, J. Y. Ithaca, N. Y.
451. Shell (\$20). 22.  
Mercer, *loc. cit.*, 1884, p. 50.  
Leavens, C. W. Neenah, Wis.
452. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 5529.  
In my collection; the gift of Mr. Rob't Shiells, of Neenah.  
Lenour, J. F. Indianapolis, Ind.
453. Copper, brass. 12.  
*Ibid.*, Nos. 1740-42; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 64, No. 14.  
In the Wright Collection and my own.
454. As preceding, but besides the mortar on reverse, DRUGS AND MEDICINES | 1863 Copper, brass. 12.  
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.
455. As preceding, but rev. Indian head, 1864. Nickel. 12.  
Communicated to me by Mr. Groh.
456. Copper, brass, tin. 12.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 1756-8; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 65, No. 22.
457. Copper, brass.  
*Ibid.*, p. 65, No. 23.  
In the last two there is Senour, a mistake in the name.  
Longwell, G. W. Paw Paw, Mich.
458. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 2576.
459. Copper. 13.  
*Ibid.*, No. 2577; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VII, 1882, p. 174.  
In my collection.  
Lowell, J. C. Fond du Lac, Wis.
460. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 5336.  
In my collection.
461. Copper. 13.  
*Ibid.*, No. 5337; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 192, No. 10.
462. Copper.  
*Ibid.*, p. 192, No. 9.
- Ludlow & Bushnell. Springfield, O.
463. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4802; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 136, No. 6.
464. Copper. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 4803; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 136, No. 6'.
465. Copper, brass. 13.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, Nos. 4804-06; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, VIII, 1883, p. 139, No. 6''.
466. Copper. 13.  
*Ibid.*, p. 136, No. 7.  
Lyon, E. New York.
467. Brass. 18.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 3299; Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 234; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, 1885, p. 103, No. 172.  
In my collection.
468. Brass. 18.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 3300; Neumann, 21791; Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 235; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, X, 1885, p. 103, No. 173; Bushnell, *loc. cit.*, N. Y. tokens, No. 53.  
In my collection.
469. As above, but five stars instead of six above head upon obverse. Brass. 18.  
Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 236; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, X, 1885, p. 103, No. 174; Bushnell, *loc. cit.*, N. Y. tokens, No. 52.  
In my collection; the gift of Mr. W. Greany, of San Francisco.
470. Brass. 14.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 3301; Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 237; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, X, 1885, p. 103, No. 175; Bushnell, *loc. cit.*, N. Y. tokens, No. 54.  
In my collection.
471. Brass. 14.  
Weyl, *loc. cit.*, No. 3302; Neumann, No. 21794; Cogan, *loc. cit.*, No. 238; *Coin Collectors' Jour.*, X, 1885, p. 103, No. 176; Bushnell, *loc. cit.*, N. Y. tokens, No. 55.  
In my collection.  
The bust upon the obverse has been said to be that of President Franklin Pierce. As there is, however, no inscription to that effect, it is more likely to be supposed to represent Mr. Lyon.

[To be continued.]

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES MINT.

WE have thought that the following summary of various items relating to the steps taken towards the establishment of the First Mint, at Philadelphia, and its early operations, compiled for the *Journal* by a correspondent, would be of interest to our readers. They have been gleaned from official sources, and we shall hope in the present volume to print another paper on the same topic, which has been promised us.

At the time of the establishment of the Mint, a great deal of difficulty was found in obtaining persons competent to take charge of its various departments. The President was authorized, by act of Congress, to procure artists from abroad, if necessary; and as appears from a communication to the U. S. Senate, in 1793, from Thomas Jefferson, "Mr. Droz, at Paris, so well known by the superior style of his coinage, was engaged for our Mint; but after occasioning to us a considerable delay, he declined coming."

Pierre Jean Droz was a Swiss, born at Chaux-de-Fond in 1743; he went to Paris at an early age, and invented a method of engraving dies, by which money could be coined with much greater speed than by the processes previously in use. He was employed by Watt & Boulton, in England, in 1790, in cutting the dies and striking the numerous copper coins which they issued by authority; later he returned to France, and it was about that time that he was invited to come to America. He preferred, however, to remain in France, and during the Empire he was the chief engraver of public medals and coins, and his portraits of the Emperor Napoleon have been highly praised. He died in 1823.

The position of Assayer was offered to Mr. Albion Cox, and he consented to accept it; but his sudden and unexpected death, by an apoplectic fit, about the first of December, 1795, deprived the Government of an intelligent officer, whose services had already proved of great value. For some time after his death the business of the Mint was entirely confined to striking Cents.

Mr. Cox is first heard of, we think, in connection with the State coinage of New Jersey; May 23, 1786, he with others applied to the Tenth General Assembly of that State, for permission to establish works for striking the Cents which it was contemplated should be issued by authority of that State; one of his associates, certainly, was from England, where he had followed the occupation of a coiner, and had brought with him to America an entire set of apparatus, adapted to the purpose. Permission having been granted, Cox began operations at Elizabeth, in a house on Water Street, which was standing not many years ago, and possibly still; the coins were struck in a shed in the rear of the main building. The General Government having forbidden the States to issue coins, the works were closed not very long after, and Mr. Cox next became connected with the United States Mint.

In some of the bills paid by the Treasury we find items for dies made by Jacob Eckfield, paid Feb. 8, 1783; to John Swanwick (April 17), for dies, which are thought by Crosby to mean simply the preparation of the dies in the rough; and "to A. Dubois, for sinking, case-hardening, etc., four pairs of dies, \$72.00," May 5, in the same year.

Henry Voight, or Voigt, was one of the first Coiners, if not the very first, after the establishment of the Mint. He was, it is believed, of Saxon ancestry. The law then required the Chief Coiner and the Assayer to give security for the faithful performance of their duties in the sum of ten thousand dollars each, but neither Voigt nor Cox were able to do this, and Jefferson requested Congress to reduce the amount required on their bonds.

The office of Refiner was not among those provided for at the beginning, and in a communication to Congress, Jefferson recommended that the President be authorized to nominate such an officer, who should be required to give bonds equal to those demanded of the Chief Coiner.



In 1794 it was found necessary to purchase an additional lot of ground for the use of the Mint, and a considerable amount was appropriated to buy the necessary machinery. Up to that time nearly one million of copper Cents had been struck, but very little money comparatively, in the precious metals. In October of that year the Director reported that a large parcel of blanks for dollars was ready for coining, "waiting for a more powerful press to be finished, to complete them for currency." Indeed, the work of coining the precious metals was, as late as 1797, confined to such amounts only as were occasionally brought to the Mint by individuals, who made deposits of bullion, which was easily shown to be greatly to "the disadvantage of public interest."

In the Fall of 1797 the banks of New York and Philadelphia made deposits of about \$300,000 in French Crowns, and these were turned into American coins at the rate of about \$20,000 per week, but at some loss to the Government. During the prevalence of the yellow fever in Philadelphia, about that time, the Mint was closed.

In February, 1795, Mr. Boudinot, from the Congressional Committee appointed to examine and report on the state of the Mint, submitted a long and very exhaustive report, which gives an account of the operations of the Mint, the officers of the institution and their duties, the state and progress of the works, and of their capacity, etc., from which we take the following:—

"The houses are built on three lots of ground, in Seventh Street, between Market and Arch Streets, the fee simple of which is vested in the United States, and one in the Northern Liberties, taken by the Director, on a lease for five years, at the trifling rent of five shillings per annum.

"The works consist of two rolling machines, one for hot and the other for cold metal, worked by four horses, and require five hands constantly to attend them, while in operation. There is a third, nearly completed, to be appropriated to the smaller coinage. A drawing machine for the purpose of equalizing the strips for cutting the planchettes, and are worked by the same hands as are last mentioned. Three cutting presses for the planchettes of larger and smaller coins, which are worked by one man each. A milling machine, which is intended to be worked by the horse mill, but, at present, requires one hand. Three coining presses, with the improvement for supplying and discharging themselves by machinery. Six hands will attend three, if in one room. A fourth, for dollars and medals, in particular, will be finished in about three months. Two turning lathes for dies, and a boring machine for making holes in the large frames, screws for presses, stakes, rollers, and an infinite variety of instruments and tools, necessary to carry on the coinage.

"There are, besides three annealing and one boiling furnace, with two forges, the assay, melting, and refining furnaces.

"The net produce of these works, from the establishment of the Mint to this time, consists of one million and eighty-seven thousand five hundred cents, paid into the Treasury of the United States, equal to ten thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars; in silver coins delivered, thirty-five thousand one hundred and sixty-five dollars. The future produce, it is said, will be about two hundred thousand cents per month.

"Your committee have made a strict inquiry into the causes, why the product has not been greater in so long a time as two years and a half from its institution, and find that, in general, the difficulties attending all establishments, that are, in their formation and operation, new and uncommon, and which, therefore, require experiments to be made in every step of their progress, have attended this institution. No works of this kind, requiring equal force and equal precision, ever having been made in this country, workmen, those expected to be obtained from Europe, by some means, having failed in the different branches, were hard to be got, and many, when engaged, were not masters of their business; the materials were difficult to be obtained, and often proved insufficient for the force required—even bar iron, from the large size required, as well as the castings, caused great delay before they could be had; oftentimes, when the machinery was finished and set to work, it gave way, and all was to be done

over again. All the tools, necessary to make the machines, were first to be made themselves. Not only the whole machinery, in all its parts, but all the tools necessary for their formation, have been executed at the Mint. This could not be effected by a union of all the proper artizans, each a complete workman in his own department, but, from necessity, was confined to the principal officer of the coining department, who could only proceed from theoretic principles, with the assistance of such workmen as could be procured, to whom most of the machines, however common in Europe, were entirely new. Add to this, that mere theoretic knowledge has produced greater complexity in the system, and, of course, greater delay and expense than full practical knowledge would have found necessary.

"The Mints in Europe have been gradual in their improvements, and have been of many years' standing. This has had every difficulty to struggle with, and was to be brought to perfection at once, lest our coins should not bear a comparison with those of other nations. Those lately executed are superior to any made in Europe.

"The buildings were all to be completed before the works could be begun. The lots on which the same are built, from a principle of economy, were so restricted in size, that they are now found to be much too small, and so insufficient as greatly to hinder the several operations, and delay the business. It was also a considerable time before an engraver could be engaged, during which, the Chief Coiner was obliged to make the dies for himself, and *yet* the dies are subject to frequent failures by breaking. Great delays have also taken place for want of a refiner and melter, provision for such an office having been wholly omitted in the law instituting the Mint, by which, the present stock of copper remains useless and unproductive.

"Your committee have been convinced by these facts, as well as from actual observation, that there are substantial reasons exculpatory of the officers of the Mint, for the delay attending this undertaking; but they are happy in observing, that most of these difficulties are now surmounted, and the future product of the coinage must be very considerable."

Of the gold bullion deposited at the Mint for coinage from February, 1795, to November, 1796, only about one-tenth was in the form of foreign coins; "one gold Medal" is mentioned as having been presented for melting. Of the silver, from July, 1794, to November, 1796, about one-third was composed of French and Spanish coins.

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### HOW HE AVOIDED THE DUTIES.

A correspondent has sent us the following account of a successful effort to evade the payment of duties, by an appeal to the "coin of the realm," taken from a foreign contemporary.

SOME thirty years or more ago, a cargo of the famous wine of Cyprus was seized by the Customs authorities at Genoa, but released by the owner's skillful use of Numismatics in the courts. It appears that a large three masted Greek vessel arrived one day at that port, entirely laden with casks of the choicest Cypriote wine; shortly after he had cast anchor her captain saw the revenue officers coming on board his vessel, to make the usual investigation as to what he had brought. "What have you got?" was their inquiry. "Nothing subject to duty," was the Captain's answer. "Ah, and those barrels there, what do they hold?" "Wine, from His Majesty's dominions." "Indeed; well, let us see; we will taste a little of it."

The Inspector and his party made a careful examination of the quality of the wine, lingering long and silently over the delicious vintage. "Good, very good," was the verdict. "What you have given us is excellent; and now let us find the Chief Inspector with your 'wine from His Majesty's dominions;' certainly neither Savoy, nor Sardinia, nor Piedmont, nor Montferrat, nor the vicinity of Genoa from Levanto to the Po, ever yielded such nectar. We must seize your cargo, and let you settle with Madame Justice what the penalty will be."

So they went to the court room, the Greek Captain taking with him certain documents and coins, and pleading his own case. He relied for his protection, first, on the tariff, which levied a duty on all wines except those made in His Majesty's dominions; next, on duly attested certificates of its origin, which he took with him, showing that it was made from grapes grown in the best vineyards of Cyprus; and, lastly, on various coins of gold and silver, of the value of 100, 80, 20 and 5 liras, on which were displayed the august figures of their Majesties, Victor Emanuel I, Charles Felix, and Charles Albert, then on the throne, all encircled by the legend "By the grace of God, King of Sardinia, Cyprus and Jerusalem," continued on the reverse by his other titles, "Duke of Savoy, Genoa," etc., which he laid before the Court.

"See," said he, "the money I must receive in payment for my wine; they all declare that the kingdom of Cyprus is a part of His Majesty's dominions! Is it possible that I can be condemned to pay these moneys as a fine for bringing here the choicest products of his kingdom?"

The argument was irresistible. The seizure was cancelled, and the wine released; but some eight days after, the tariff was amended, and the privilege of admission free of duty was limited to such wines as came from the European possessions of His Majesty the King of Sardinia, Cyprus, and Jerusalem.

## THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MINT.

### [FIFTH PAPER.]

[Continued from Vol. xxvi, page 83.]

THE following is an extract from a letter dated October 27, 1795, written by Henry William De Saussure, who was the immediate predecessor of Elias Boudinot, in the office of Director of the Mint. It was addressed to the President of the United States, and communicated to Congress, soon after its session began, in December of that year, by the Hon. Timothy Pickering, who was then Secretary of State. It is interesting as showing the day of small things in the Mint, and the difficulties which the Government encountered, in its efforts at establishing a suitable place to strike a National coinage.

It may possibly appear to those who have not taken pains to inform themselves of the difficulties to be encountered in the formation of new establishments, that little has been done; but a short review of the embarrassments which occurred, will shew, that as much has been done as could reasonably be expected, in the infancy of this establishment. In the first instance, it was exceedingly difficult to procure workmen, in any degree acquainted with the various kinds of work to be performed. Indeed, most of the workmen have been formed in the Mint, and have only recently attained that skill and facility in their several walks, which practice alone can give, but which is essential to the despatch of business. Much difficulty occurred in obtaining the very tools and implements necessary for the operations of the mint; and most of them have been prepared under the immediate direction of the officers, and particularly Mr. Voight, the coiner.

Great delays occurred in obtaining the heavy iron-work, particularly the rollers; and these were not always fit for use when obtained. Those which are now in use being almost worn out, I have been striving to replace them with the fine Andover iron. One unsuccessful attempt has been made for us at an air furnace; and yet it remains to be tried, for it can be accomplished without recurring to the tedious and expensive method of making them of wrought iron converted into steel.

More than once, as I have been informed, the operations have been suspended, for want of dies,<sup>1</sup> which the industry of the engraver could not supply fast enough for

<sup>1</sup> Probably this may account for the use of "altered dies," which are found.

the presses. A happier selection of steel, aided by more skill in hardening the dies, has remedied this evil, and the engraver is now enabled to supply the Mint with dies of every kind, in advance. To these causes of delay, must be added, that the greatest part of the bullion which has been brought to the Mint for coinage, has been below our standard, and required the tedious operation of refining; or the precious metals have been brought melted up together, and required the more tedious operation of separation; operations which, I understand, are never performed at any other Mint, and which the diminutive scale on which ours is formed, but illy qualified it to perform. These are some of the difficulties which occurred. Most of them had been vanquished by the judgment of my able and very respectable predecessor, whose mechanical genius and powers of calculation seem to have been essential to the organization of the establishment. The remainder, I have endeavored to subdue; and I am now free to say, that the Mint, even on its present contracted scale, if regularly supplied with the precious metals, of the legal standard, will be adequate to the coinage of 1,500,000 dollars, annually, in silver, and as much in gold; and, that a small increase of the labor and expense, will produce as much of the copper coinage as will be requisite for the use of this country. I venture this assurance, upon my view of its operations upon a late deposit of silver, vigorously urged for a few weeks. The gold coinage was carried on at the same time, to a small amount, and might have been to a much larger, if there had been any bullion in a state fit for coinage. All the gold, and almost all the silver, within a mere trifle, in a state actually fit for immediate coinage, has been coined and delivered.

It will be proper for me to state to you, what I have before stated to the late Secretary of State, and the present Secretary of the Treasury, that there is no copper in the Mint fit for coinage. There are, indeed, considerable quantities of clippings of the copper, which are reducible into ingots, and would, when rolled, be fit for use; but the Mint is so illy prepared for these operations on that metal, whilst occupied in the coinage of the precious metals, that it would be advisable for the Government to apply these clippings, and some other masses of copper in possession of the Mint, to some other purposes, and to exchange therefor, some of the sheet copper it possesses, or to purchase sheet copper for the coinage. The price of copper having risen considerably, from causes which, it is said, will be operative for some length of time, if not permanently, it has been suggested that it would be useful to diminish the weight of the cent, as the copper would, thereby, be brought nearer to its proportionate value to silver, and might prevent its being worked up by the coppersmiths. The law seems to have contemplated the possibility of such an arrangement being proper, by giving you the power to make the alteration. . . .

I understand that none of the laws of Congress have provided any penalties for the various offences which may be committed against the coinage. In most countries, strict laws are enacted, prohibiting the interference of individuals in this attribute of the sovereignty; and, in some, the very possession of dies, or presses, or other implements essential in the coinage, is made criminal. In this country, Mints are said to be boldly erected at Baltimore, and elsewhere, professedly to imitate the coins of foreign countries, and to furnish a debased gold coin for the West India markets; and so much of the gold bullion which would be brought to the national Mint, is carried to these private establishments, which degrade our national character. Encouraged by this negligence of Government, men have carried their ideas farther; and there is too much reason to fear, that a recent attempt on our dies and other implements was made with nefarious views.

Amongst the unpleasant circumstances which attend the contracted scale on which the Mint has been erected, there is one of very serious import. The owner of a small lot adjoining the Mint has a right of passage through the interior of the lots of the Mint. This exposes the works to improper intrusion, and prevents that complete control over the workmen which is essential to the well ordering of the business. A small sum of money would have purchased that lot some time ago. I believe it may still be had reasonably.



## MASONIC MEDALS.

[Continued from Vol. XXVI, p. 89.]

DCCCLXXXVIII. Obverse, Within a circle formed by a snake devouring its tail, a naked bust in profile to observer's left, of Baron Humboldt. Legend, G.: U. V.: □ ZU „HUMBOLDT” IM OR.: PEST. and at the bottom, completing the circle, GEGR.: 000869. (For *Gerecht und Volkommen Loge*; True and Perfect Lodge Humboldt, in the Orient of Pest, founded 1869.) Reverse, A serpent-ring similar to that on the obverse, enclosing the square and compasses, within which is the letter M; in the field at the left and above the end of the square B, and at the right J; below the working tools KOSMOS; the O of each syllable is placed in a line above the other letters, so as to form the apex of a triangle of which the other two letters form the base; the O's are also so arranged that with the letters B and J they indicate the corners of a square; the word Kosmos (Universe) alludes not only to the great work of Humboldt, bearing that name, but to the “universality of Freemasonry.” Legend, as on the obverse. Bronze. Size 21.<sup>1</sup>

DCCCLXXXIX. Obverse, An operative workman standing with a gavel in his uplifted right hand and a chisel in his left, before a large, rough ashlar, or rock, on which he is laboring; the top of the rock rises in a point above his head, and his back is toward the observer. Legend, \* LOGE ZUR ARBEIT \* above, and IN LABORE VIRTUS below, completing the circle. [Lodge of Labor: In labor is virtue.] Reverse, The square and compasses. Legend, separated by a line from the field, \* GEGRUNDET ORIENT PEST \* and below, completing the circle two staves in saltire: in the left angle, 000; in the right, 871; above, III, and below, 26 [Founded in the Orient of Pest, March 26, 1871]. Brass. Size 24.<sup>2</sup>

DCCCXC. Obverse, A draped female figure stands facing, her right hand extended scatters money; her left rests upon a lion seated on his haunches beside her, his left paw raised; she wears a crown, the points of which are tipped with “pearls;” behind the figures is a square pillar on a high pedestal; its top has been broken; on its side it has the square and compasses. There is no legend. The figures symbolize Magnanimity or Generosity. Reverse, (Not engraved,<sup>3</sup> nor fully described by Bro. Crowe). Branches of oak and laurel (? enclosing the inscription) LOGE ZUR GROSSMUTH, OR. BUDAPEST. [Lodge of Magnanimity, Orient of Buda-Pest.] White metal. Size 28.

<sup>1</sup> Described from the engraving in Bro. Crowe's paper in the *Christmas Freeman*; the Lodge which struck this Medal is of German origin, under the Grand Orient of Hungary, and “is noted for its excellent working.” The Medal is worn suspended by a sky-blue ribbon.

<sup>2</sup> The description is also from the engraving mentioned above, and I conform to that (as probably the more correct) and not to the printed description. Bro. Crowe says it was established at Pest, “on the 27th March, 1871,” but is now extinct; the date on the engraving is clearly 26, not 27. The medal was worn with a blue ribbon. He does not mention the origin of the Lodge, which from its legends was doubtless German, and I suppose Johannite, though were it not that Bro. Crowe gives the date of the foundation as March,

I should, from the arrangement of the figures denoting the year, (see preceding number) have regarded it as under the obedience of the Grand Orient, and read the III as denoting *May*. I have not been able to verify this date.

<sup>3</sup> I know this Medal at present only from Bro. Crowe's paper and the accompanying engraving; the description I feel sure is erroneous in one or two points; the word which I give above as LOGE, is printed *Lodge* in the text, and Bro. Crowe says there are *two* pillars, one of which bears the emblems; but his engraving shows *only one*, which is square. He says the Lodge was formerly “Clandestine,” and became defunct; some of its members were initiated anew in another Lodge, and revived this in 1888; the Lodge works in the German language.

DCCCXCI. Obverse, The square and compasses, within which is a raven, to observer's right, standing on the arms of the square, and holding a ring in his beak; below the square at the right, SEIDAN in small letters (die-cutter). Legend, separated from the field by a circle, CORVIN MATVAS PAHOLY PEST KEL. ☐ so arranged that the symbol comes at the bottom. (Lodge Corvin Mátyás, [Matthias Corvinus] Orient of Pest.) Reverse, (Not engraved by Crowe, has, he says,) "A double triangle, with legend MEGNYITTATOTT 000869 .IKI. NYOLCZADIKHO 21<sup>EN</sup>." [Opened, or founded, Oct. 20, 1869.] Gilt. Size 28.<sup>1</sup>

DCCCXCII. Obverse, The square and compasses at the bottom of the field, the angle of the square and points of the compasses touching the circle which separates the legend from the device; above is the sun,—a face on a star of eight points of formal rays. Legend, 5/1 877 "EÖTVÖS" ☐ ∴ above, and below, completing the circle, O. ∴ BUDA-PEST KEL. ∴ [1877 Eötvös Lodge, Orient of Buda-pest.] Reverse, Clothed bust nearly facing, but slightly turned to observer's right, of Baron Joseph Eötvös, (Hungarian Minister of Public Instruction) enclosed in a wreath formed of oak on the right and olive on the left, open at the top and crossed and tied with a ribbon at the bottom. No legend. White metal. Size 27.<sup>2</sup>

The same paper to which I am indebted for my descriptions of the Hungarian Medals, has engravings of four jewels, of Hungarian Lodges, some of which may be struck, but as they are distinctly jewels, and made up of enamels and metal combined, I content myself by referring those interested to the paper mentioned, for particulars. It also mentions, without description, a Medal of the Lodge "Schiller," at Pressburg, in Bro. Shackles' collection, which I shall mention hereafter, full particulars not having reached me.

DCCCXCIII. Obverse, Naked bust to right, in profile, of Wendt; under the decollation, in small letters, H. GUBE FEC. Legend, on a "dead-finish" border, separated by a circle from the burnished field, DOCT. IOH. WENDT K. PR. GEH. MEDICINAL RATH U. PROFESSOR ORDINAR. and below, completing the circle, \* AM 26 OCTB. 1828 \* [Dr. John Wendt, Privy Medical Counsellor to the King of Prussia, and University Professor, Oct. 26, 1828.] Reverse, Hygieia seated, feeding a serpent from a patera which she holds in her left hand; the serpent entwines itself around her right arm and waist; a close wreath of oak leaves surrounds the field; a small circular tablet on the wreath, at the top, has the extended compasses, and a similar tablet at the bottom has the square and gavel. No legend. Bronze. Size 30.<sup>3</sup>

1 I describe this from the same source as the preceding; Bro. Crowe says this is the "Mother Lodge" of the Grand Orient in Pest, having about sixty members, including the actual Grand Master M. W. Bro. Stephen Rakovsky, and several other Grand Officers, past and present. The raven (Latin *Corvus*) he remarks is the armorial device of the "Huniades family, from which sprang the famous John Corvinus Huniades, the champion of Christianity, and the terror of the Turks," in the fifteenth century. I regret that at present I cannot give a more complete description of the reverse, which, as printed in the *Christmas Freemason* omits the letter Z in one of the words of the legend (? inscription), but which I insert on Hungarian authority, as probably the correct reading. The Lodge takes its name from Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary (one of the Huniades family, and son of John mentioned above), who was born in 1443, and died in 1490.

2 This is the last of the Hungarian Medals described and engraved in the paper from which I have taken the preceding; it was struck by the Lodge named, which was founded in 1877,—it will be noticed that the date in the legend is arranged to show the Masonic year as well as that of the Christian era—and has a membership of about 50; its name is taken in honor of the distinguished statesman recently deceased, whose bust it bears, although he was not a Mason. Bro. Crowe calls the branch laurel which I term olive for reasons given in a note on a preceding piece. I am informed by Bro. Hughan that other Hungarian Medals exist, which I hope to describe hereafter.

3 I describe this Medal from a fine specimen in the Lawrence Collection; Merzdorf, who knew the piece, does not include it among Masonics; why, I do not understand, as the small tablets bearing Masonic emblems clearly give it place among them, and he mentions the fact that Wendt was a Mason.

DCCCXCIV. Obverse, A circle containing three right hands joined (one reaching down from above, holding the fingers of the others); above, is the All-seeing eye in a radiant triangle, and below, two crossed sprigs; outside the circle is the legend, separated from the field by another circle, AMICITIAE FUNDAMENTUM VIRTUS [Virtue the foundation of friendship]; at the bottom, completing the circle, G. B. (the initials of the name of the Lodge). On the field, at the top of the outer circle, is a five-pointed star; this device is the seal of the Lodge; it is enclosed within an open wreath of two branches, oak on the left, and acacia on the right, their stems crossed and tied with a ribbon at the bottom. Reverse, Within a circle formed by a cable-tow having nine knots, the inscription in eleven lines, TER | HERINNERING | AAN | HET | HONDERDJARIG BESTAAN | VRIJMETSELAARSLOGE | DE GELDERSCHIE | BROEDERSCHAP | IN HET O. VAN ARNHEM. | 17 FEBRUARI. | 1786. 1886. [In remembrance of the Centennial of the Masonic Lodge "Guelderland Brotherhood," in the Orient of Arnhem, Feb. 17, etc.]; near the lower edge at the left, curving, BR. L. H. EBERSON INV. and at the right, BR. DE VRIES FEC. One impression in silver-gilt (vermeil), one in silver, and twelve in bronze. Size 30 nearly.<sup>1</sup>

[To be continued.]

W. T. R. MARVIN.

## STONE MONEY.

*Editors of the Journal:—*

THE *Scientific Review* for September, 1885, has an account of money made of stone, which I do not remember to have seen mentioned in the *Journal*. Mons. Edmond Plauchut, in speaking of the Caroline Islands, states that "in that mysterious archipelago, the use of gold, silver and other metallic coins is unknown; the money in circulation there consists of circular stones, which have a hole in the centre, and vary in diameter from twenty centimetres to one metre. With this stone currency, the material of which is very hard, and which comes from the neighboring islands of Palaos, or Paleus, another archipelago or cluster of islets near the Caroline Islands, where it is also used for the same purpose, the natives pay their tribute to the chiefs of their villages; with this also they purchase their lands for cultivation."

The author does not tell us what kind of stone it is that is thus used; but as the greater part of the two hundred small islands are formed of basaltic and similar rock, it is probable, says another writer, in commenting on this curious money, that "the pieces are of this stone. However this may be, the size of the money would render it difficult to carry on very extensive transactions on such a basis, and the cumbrous character of the money would seem to render wealth invested in it rather embarrassing."

The same writer also mentions a fact which I do not think has been noticed hitherto by American Numismatists, — that certain prehistoric people in Europe very probably also used stones as money: "certain round pieces of stone have occasionally been found, evidently wrought to a greater or less extent, and of which archaeologists have given us no explanation;" it would seem that reasons exist for believing that these may have been used like the money of the Caroline Islanders.

J. R. S.

*New York, June, 1892.*

<sup>1</sup> I describe this rare medal from an engraving in *Revue Belge de Numismatique*, xlii: 333, from which I learn that the Lodge was founded in 1786 by eleven zealous Brethren, and on the 17th of February in that year it received a Charter from the Grand Orient of the Netherlands; this Medal was struck to commemorate the Centenary of the Lodge, by Bro. Ebersson, whose

name appears on the obverse. He was "Architect to the King of the Netherlands." Whether others have since been struck, I have not ascertained. The Centenary was largely attended by representatives from the various Lodges in Holland, Belgium and Germany, who presented the Lodge with various gifts in honor of the event.

MEDALLIC MEMORIALS OF THE GREAT COMETS,  
AND THE POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS CONNECTED WITH THEIR APPEARANCE.

BY DAVID L. WALTER.

[Concluded from Vol. XXVI, p. 54.]

THE Comet on the Medal described below probably does not commemorate any particular visitor, the nearest one of prominence to the date of the piece being that of 1686, a Medal of which has already been mentioned. This I have not seen. It is described in "Medallic Illustrations of the History of Great Britain and Ireland to the Death of George II," from which I take the following:—

*Obverse.* Louis XIV receiving James II, of England: a palace behind one, ruins behind the other; the sun partially eclipsed by the moon. *Legend*, ORBATA . LUCE . LUCIDUM . OBSCURAT. (Deprived of light, she obscures the bright.) In exergue, LUD . XIV . ADMI . IAC . II . A . R . P . VII . IAN . 1689. (Louis XIV receives James II, the banished King of England, Jan. 7, 1689.)

*Reverse.* A desolate landscape, ruined houses, leafless trees, and a shipwreck; above, a Comet, labelled EXTRA ORBEM. (Out of its sphere.) *Legend*, QUOS INVISIT HIS MINATOR (*sic*) EXITIUM. (It threatens with destruction those whom it visits.) Metal not mentioned. Size 36.

Med. Ill. William and Mary, 14. Menestrier, Dutch Ed., pl. 41. Struck in Holland, and probably executed by Jan Smeltzing.

The work cited further says:— 'The design of the obverse seems to signify that Louis, who had adopted the sun as his emblem, suffered by the misfortunes of James, whose darkness obscured the French King's shining; Louis had aimed at universal monarchy; while James reigned, England left him to pursue his career without interruption; when James had abdicated, England became the head of the conspiracy against Louis, whose sun was thereby obscured.' The Comet is therefore introduced as the messenger of evil. It also refers to the English King who was out of his realm. The medal is extremely rare.

Precisely which Comet is commemorated on the pieces next to be described cannot definitely be ascertained; possibly that of 1874, or a later one; the exact date of the issue of the pieces I do not find given, and for my knowledge of them I am indebted to a brief description and accompanying illustration in the *Revue Belge de Numismatique*, in the volume for the year 1884, page 435, from which I take the following:—

A series of tokens or *meraux* has frequently been struck in Belgium, by the large industrial establishments, for convenience in the payment of their workmen. One of these series, struck in a manufacturing establishment in Mons, consists of pieces of 500 Centimes, 100, 50, 10, and 5, the dies engraved by Fisch.

*Obverse.* A Comet; its head in the form of a five-pointed star; its tail extends to the right, across the field, and bears the letters T. M. (explained by the legend of the reverse); on the field are stars and clouds.

*Reverse.* On the field, within a circle, the figures denoting the denomination of the token. *Legend*, TANNERIE MINERAL and below \* MONS \* [Mineral Tannery, Mons]. The size probably varies with the denomination; that engraved is 20; the metal is not given.

The Editor informs us that the device is the official stamp or trade-mark of the fabric manufactured there, and closes his notice with an extract from a reply to a letter of inquiry which he had addressed to a friend, asking an explanation of the legend, who said: "I know nothing about it; 'Mineral Tannin' is as much unknown to me as the Mineral rice of Dr. Cloetboom, of joyous memory."



## THE COMET OF THE CUBASCH TWINS, 1890.

The very curious superstition already spoken of in several places, connecting the advent of Comets with the birth of twins, triplets, etc., was very wide-spread. To recall it, the Viennese Club of Friends of Medals and Coins have caused to be struck a little medalet which celebrates "the Comet of the year 1890," and the birth of twins to their member Heinrich Cubasch. It is probable that some future antiquarians may imagine from this medal, that the superstition still lingered in the breast of the learned numismatians of 1890! Possibly those who struck some of the earlier medals of which we have treated, may in like manner have had merely historical reminiscences in mind, when they placed those curious phrases on their productions, which now seem so old-world like. The medal is thus described:

*Obverse.* The two infants; between their feet *τ. s.* *Leg.* WILHELM. V. MATHILDE CUBASCH | GEB. ZU WIEN 21. OCT. 1890 [William and Matilda Cubasch, born at Vienna, 21st October, 1890.]

*Reverse.* Inscription in the field: ERINNERUNG | AN | DAS | KOMETEN JAHR 1890 (In remembrance of the Comet of the year 1890.) *Leg.* DIE THEILNEHMER. DES CLUBS. D(ie) | M(unzen) | U(nd) M(edailen) FR(eunde) DEM LIEBEN GENOSSEN. (The Members of the Club of Friends of Medals and Coins to their beloved companion.) A Comet spreads its rays over the legend in field. Gilt, brass.

In my own collection. I thank Heinrich Cubasch, Esq., Antiquarian, of Vienna, for an impression of this pretty medalet.

## MEDALS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

I have seen several medals representing the solar system and the planets, which also display Comets among the other heavenly bodies, but they are merely introduced as part of the ordinary celestial view, and of no interest individually, and therefore I do not describe these.

It is proper to say that the proofs of the foregoing article have not been revised by Mr. Walter, whose sudden and lamented death occurred after they had been forwarded to him, but before he had found an opportunity to examine them. Only a few days previous he had written to the Editors that he had just learned of several more Medals of Comets which he proposed to add as a Supplement, and that he was intending to have some of these engraved for the *Journal*, but Mrs. Walter, who has most kindly forwarded the MS. on the subject which were among his papers, informs us that she has not found the descriptions referred to. We greatly regret that this most interesting monograph must remain somewhat incomplete. Some of his friends contemplate publishing in pamphlet form with accompanying plates and a brief supplement, containing a list of the authorities consulted, the series of papers which have appeared in the *Journal*. Should this be done, many of our readers will desire, we cannot doubt, to secure a copy, and due announcement will be made in the *Journal*.

W. T. R. M.

## ABYSSINIAN CURRENCY.

THROUGHOUT Abyssinia, cloth, colored pieces of handkerchiefs, and bars of rock-salt ten inches long, serve as the ordinary medium of barter. The only coin in the country is the Marie-Thérèse silver dollar. Twenty-four bars of salt go to the dollar, therefore I always avoided changing dollars, and for small wants got on well by trading empty beer-bottles, of which we were always adding to our supply, getting for each two chickens and a dozen eggs. Worcestershire sauce bottles ran higher because of their glass stoppers. If I had felt inclined to settle in that country, I could have taken a chief's daughter in marriage, in spite of my green eyes and pink skin, on account of a large cut-glass cologne bottle, with a bulbous glass stopper, that I happened to have with me.—*Frederic Villiers in the Century*. [See *Journal*, III: 30.]

## ALLUSIVE SYMBOLS OF ANCIENT COINS.

*Editors of the Journal:—*

THE ancients instituted the custom, which has frequently been followed in modern times, of placing upon their coins some device having an allusion to the name of the families or persons by whom they were issued, very much on the principle of what is called "Canting Heraldry" or "*arma parlantes*." These are seen very often, on the early Greek and Roman coins, more especially; I find in a Numismatic journal published abroad, a partial list of these pieces, from which I take the following, which may be of interest to your readers:—

The Denarii of the Aburian family bear the sun, alluding to the derivation of the name of the gens from the Latin word which signifies to burn; Accoleius Lariscus used a larch tree—the word *Lariscus* denoting a cultivator of the larch; Lucius Saturninus (*Appuleia*), Saturn in a quadriga; Lucius Florus (*Aquillia*), a flower; Lucius Axsius Naso, three dogs (*Naso* meaning the nose, and the allusion being to the dog's power of following a trail by his sense of smell); the Cordian gens used Venus Verticordia (Venus, the ruler of hearts, *corda*); Lucius Furius Purpureo, the murex (from which was obtained the royal *purple* dye); Publius Furius Crassipes, a foot (Latin *pes*); Julius Caesar, an elephant,—an animal which bears the name of Cæsar in the Punic language; Decimus Silanus (*Junia*), the head of Silenus (?); Trio (Lucius Lucretius), the head of the sun, and the seven stars (*Septem triones*), which form the Constellation of the Great Bear; this piece may be of interest to your correspondent in the April *Journal*; one of the Marcian gens used the Satyr Marsyas; Caius Numonius Vaala (*Numonia*), a soldier attacking a rampart, or *vallum*; Petillius Capitolinus, the head and the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus; Pomponius Musa, the Muses; Titus Flaminus (*Flaminia*), the hat of the flamens; Lucius Acisculus, a hammer (Latin *Acisculus*); Caius Vibius Pansa, the face of the god Pan; Quintus Voconius Vitulus, a calf (Latin *Vitulus*.)

Many other examples might doubtless be given, among them the symbols which have been the means by which numismatists have assigned certain coins or medals to particular families, and which, as they bear no names, could not otherwise have been determined. Among the latter is a medal with the flamen's cap, and a mallet, which has been attributed to one Tuditanus (from the Latin *Tudes*, a mallet), perhaps of the Pobjician or Sempronian gens.

F. C. P.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

EPHRAIM BRASHER.

WHAT is known of Ephraim Brasher, who is familiar to us from his connection with the so-called "Brasher Doubloon?"

L.

We are unable to give much information in reply to our querist. Brasher is said to have been a gold and silver-smith, and probably a resident of New York; his name appears in the New York City Directory for 1787 as a silver-smith at No. 1 Cherry Street. He may perhaps have been a relative of Abraham Brasher, a Colonel in a New York Regiment, during the Revolutionary War, and somewhat known by his songs and popular ballads. As to this, however, we are not certainly informed. He was employed by the authorities of the United States Mint, in 1792, to make assays for the Mint, "on sundry coins of gold and silver, pursuant to instructions from the then Secretary of the Treasury" (Alexander Hamilton). What those coins were, it cannot now be definitely ascertained, but possibly he may have assisted David Ott, whose assay in November, 1792, is on record; this was an examination of "French Guineas and Double Guineas," so-called, and of English Guineas, Spanish Pistoles, and Half Johannes of Portugal, of various dates, in gold, and of English and French Crowns, English Shillings, and Spanish Dollars, in silver; for work of this kind Brasher seems to have been well adapted. He appears however to have been unsuccessful in business, and to have made an assignment to one John Shield. If any of our correspondents can give us further information concerning him, we shall be glad to receive it.

EDS.

## ALCHEMICAL OR MASONIC?

*Editors of the Journal:*

IN the "Medallic Illustrations of British History," Vol. I, pp. 276-7, a medal is described having the reverse given below. The authors of that work say this reverse was probably not intended for the obverse with which it is found (bust of Endymion Porter, 1635), but "seems to have some alchemical or Masonic allusion." Please give me your views. A figure with radiated head seated upon a globe; a crown, sword, rosary, olive and palm branches lying at his feet, holding a wreath in one hand and in the other a mirror by which he concentrates the rays of light, and passing them through the opening of an arch, directs them upon the foot of Mercury, who holds a key in one hand and a caduceus in the other. *Leg.* ILLE QVI VIDET RECIPIT. EGO VIDEO ET RECIPIO. [He who sees receives. I see and receive.] R. C. A.

I see nothing to indicate that this has any Masonic character. It may have an alchemical allusion, which is hinted at by the figure of Mercury. The only portions of the device which can be construed as having reference to Masonry are the rays of light and the arch; but cryptic Masonry (so called) or indeed any grade of the Order, struck no medals as early as 1635; the body was not then sufficiently homogeneous, and it was more than a century later before Royal Arch Masonry was sufficiently organized to do so. There are perhaps students of Masonic history who would dispute this statement, but however that may be, I am convinced, after a careful study of the piece, that whatever else it may be, it is not Masonic. W. T. R. M.

THE Editor of the *Beirût* (Syria) paper "*Lisan el-Hal*" informs his readers under date of May 30, that he has received a letter from Sidon from Ali Beg Gimblat, one of the Princes of Lebanon, that while the workmen were digging on his property at the village of Baramiyeh, preparatory to building a house for him, they uncovered a beautiful and valuable sarcophagus of the Grecian period, and he has presented it to the Government Museum. The Editor has written to obtain further particulars from his correspondent. We have seen no account of this discovery in our foreign exchanges.

## COIN SALES.

## THE WOODSIDE COLLECTION.

THE Collection of Mr. George D. Woodside, of Philadelphia, Pa., composed almost entirely of United States Pattern Pieces, with some Experimental Coins, to which was added a number of Canadian Coins and Medals, gathered by the late Mr. Oliver, whose War Medals were dispersed at a Sale in England not long since, were sold at auction at the rooms of Messrs. Bangs & Co., New York, on Saturday, April 23, 1892. Catalogue by the New York Coin & Stamp Company. The Catalogue covered 45 pages and contained 615 lots. As might be expected in the sale of a cabinet of this character, very good prices were received for the most desirable specimens. An illustrated edition of 100 copies, with artotype plates representing 46 pieces, was issued. Among the prices received we note the following, and as it would be impossible in our limits to give full descriptions of the peculiar differences of these pieces, we add the numbers of the lots referred to: 1, Silver Centre Cent, 1792, \$20; 2, Disme, 1792, 23; 3, Half do., 20; 5, Dollar, 1794, without stars, in copper, from Davis collection and said to be unique, 2; 11, Half Dollar, 1814, in *platinum*, only one other known, which is in the Mint Cabinet, 21; 14 and 15, 1836 Dollars, Gobrecht on base, 10, and on field, 30.50; 29, Dollar, 1839, regular issue flying eagle, "original without doubt," 30; 38, Double Eagle, same as regular issue of 1850, "the gem of the Woodside collection and of the Davis cabinet from which it came: it is now offered for first time at public sale; one in gold in Mint Cabinet, and this in brass (but gold-plated by Mr. Davis . . .) are the only existing specimens of these dies," 55; 287 and 288, two different Commercial Dollars of 1872, 19.50 and 21; 296, Trade Dollar, from Parmelee Sale, 1873, Liberty seated, *L.* on globe, etc., 11; 301, Twenty Cents, 1874, Liberty seated *L.* on globe, sim. to adopted design, 9.25; 346, Stella, gold proof, Mr. W. says "Only one I ever saw in gold," 40; varieties of the Goloid Dollars, 1879, 10.25 each; two Morgan Dollars of same date, of which but three sets known, lots 350, 352, 14; 354, 15; 356, same date but differing die, 14; 358, 16.50, and 360, 10; among the Canadian Medals we notice a number which brought very high prices, but we think it unnecessary to give further quotations, as so large a proportion were taken by the parties under whose name the sale was conducted, that we deem them of no consequence in establishing actual market values; 266 out of the first 404 lots were sold to "New York."

## NEW YORK COIN AND STAMP COMPANY'S SALE.

May 27th another sale took place, under the same auspices as the last, at the rooms of Bangs & Co., New York; this was a collection of Coins, Medals, Numismatic Books, etc., "of a distinguished American amateur." The Catalogue, 47 pages, contained 621 lots. The collection was largely of Ancient Greek and Roman Coins, German Crowns, Medieval coins, etc., with a miscellaneous assortment of Medals, Decorations, War Medals, and a few Russian Medals, and the sale closed with the books and catalogues. A Triple Crown of Christian Louis, 1648, \$15; another of the same, 1664, 16; St. Helena

Medal, inscription in Italian, silver, size 48, weight 8½ ounces, "superb, uncirculated," 14.50; the First and Second volumes of the Fonrobert sale, in half green cloth, 14.50; Neumann's Description of the best known Copper coins, "difficult to import at \$25," brought 7 a volume; this, as is well known, is the standard work on the subject, and describes 41,000 copper coins; it was a clean copy, and the six original volumes bound in four, made the cost \$28; Rentzmann's Lexicon of Numismatic Legends, with Supplement, half mor. 8vo, 7.50; Thomsen (Part II, Coins of the Middle Ages, describes 12,683 medieval coins), 15.50.

#### THE H. E. DEATS COLLECTION.

MR. ED. FROSSARD sold, at the rooms of Messrs. Leavitt & Co., June 9 and 10, the American Coins and Medals, including the rare 1822 Half Eagle, and a great variety of Paper Money — Colonial, Continental, Fractional Currency, Confederate, etc. — and about 275 books, chiefly Numismatic, gathered by Mr. H. F. Deats. The Catalogue, 50 pages, numbered 850 lots. Of the prices and result of the Sale we note the following: The Half Eagle of 1822 was passed; of this piece the Cataloguer remarked, but two other specimens are at present known; one in fine condition, in the Mint Cabinet, but struck on an ordinary planchet [this was a brilliant impression]; the other, — that in the Parmelee Sale, — "now generally understood not to have been the property of Mr. Parmelee, after a spirited contest between various dealers and collectors, was finally knocked down to 'Clay' (H. P. S.), at \$900." In other words it was bid in by the parties conducting that sale. This piece was offered at "an upset price of \$500, only \$50 more than half the sum several collectors appeared to be willing to pay for a specimen at the Parmelee sale two years ago." The upset price however was not bid, we judge, as the piece was passed, or withdrawn, for private sale, — which, we have not learned. All of which goes to show that a coin sale may be as much of a lottery as marriage, with the seller rather than the buyer, the one who draws the most blanks. At the prices which coins of much less rarity and interest have brought, at no very distant period, we are surprised that this should not have found eager bidders at the "upset" figures. A fine and very rare Dollar of 1794 brought 67.50; do., 1836, Gobrecht on base, 11; 1839, Liberty seated, 29.25; 1847, pr., v. r., 9.50; 1851, pr., 36; 1852, 50; 1858, 40; a large silver medallion, commemorating the German conquest of Alsace-Lorraine, dies by Kullrich, proof, size 54, brought 15; the Paper money brought very good prices, as these issues have been going of late, and the more valuable works on special branches of the science also sold well. A limited number of copies of the catalogue were printed on a fine Japanese paper.

#### THE RAMSDEN COLLECTION.

THE Messrs. Chapman of Philadelphia, sold at the rooms of Messrs. Davis & Harvey, in that city, on June 21 and 22, the collection of the late Mr. Thomas Ramsden, a gentleman well known among collectors, and President of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society until its dissolution in December, 1889. Mr. Ramsden deceased in April, 1890, at the age of 56, having devoted much of the latter part of his life to making this collection; it contained a large number of specimens of the regular coinage, among which were an unusual variety of duplicate dates of some of the rarest in this series, and many choice examples of the gold coinage. There were also a number of interesting Medals, among which we note the Season Medal, (Interior scene, women spinning, weaving, etc.) which brought \$20; the Eccleston Washington, "The Land was ours," 6.50; among the gold coins, the early Eagles brought the customary advance on their face value; a very fine impression of 1795 sold for 17.50; one of 1797, ten stars behind, and six before the bust, 14.50; Half Eagle of 1797, perfect date, eleven stars behind and five before the bust, an excessively rare variety, 44; Half Eagle, 1831, v. f. and v. r., 23.50; Quarter Eagle of 1796, no stars, 16; another of same date, but eight stars before and as many behind the bust, 42; do., 1806 over 1804, eight behind, five before, 15; one of 1834, type of the Half of 1813, 7.50, and another, type of 1835, without motto, f. and r., 7.60. Proof set of 1857, nine pieces, 17; one of 1858, six pieces, 42.50; Dollar of 1794, flowing hair bust, fifteen stars, eight before, seven behind, and lettered edge, plugged, 22; do., 1836, Liberty seated, flying eagle on starry field, plain edge, proof, 8.25; do., 1852, plugged, (from Palmer collection) 14; one of 1858, br. proof, 37; Half Dollars of 1796, both plugged, 33 and 21; four Half Dollars of 1797, brought 30, 21, 27, and 19.50, and a fifth and sixth of same date, only fair, 15 and 18; many of the early dates of the Cents also brought excellent prices; a Chain Cent of 1793, legend in full, 7.25, and one with legend abbreviated, 14; 1797, unc., 15.25; 1799, perfect date, 27.50, and another, 20; Half Cent of 1796, pole to cap, only poor, though good for date of this rare piece, 16; many of the Medals sold very well, especially two of Lincoln and one of Grant. Among the books and pamphlets, we notice that several sets of early volumes of the *Journal* were sold. Of these the first lot was composed of the first eighteen volumes, bound, which brought 45; Mr. Phillips's work, in two volumes, on the Paper Currency of the Colonies, sold for 10.50. The entire sale was very successful.

#### COLONIAL, CONTINENTAL AND PAPER MONEY SALE.

On the 29th June, the Scott Stamp and Coin Company (Ltd.) sold at the rooms of Messrs. Bangs & Co., New York, a collection of Colonial, Continental and Confederate Paper Money, Fractional Currency, together with various Coins, Medals and Tokens, etc. The Catalogue, 37 pages, contained 586 lots, and the total amount of the sale was about \$1,350. A Continental Note of Massachusetts, Dec. 7, 1775, for 36 Shillings, brought \$6; a lot (three pieces), North Carolina do., 1748 and 1758, 7.80; and three other pieces, sold as a lot, 1768, 1776, and 1780, two of them mended, 9.30; four other pieces of North Carolina, with Masonic devices, described some time ago in the *Journal*, sold as a lot, brought 12; among the coins we note the Gloriam Regni (½ Crown), 5.75; Jetons of the Franco-American series, "Sub Omni Sidere," fine and sharp, 5; "Non inferiora," 18.50; "Non vilius auro," 6.50; the Belle-Isle piece, "Britain triumphed," etc., 15.25; "Canada subdued," 6.25; Half-penny, Bank of Montreal, front



and side view, 1838, 12.25, and the Penny, same design, 25; Half-penny, 1839, 7.25, and Penny, 1838, sim. des., 25; Farthing of Anne, 1714, 9; Crowns, Elizabeth, 1601, 28.50; of Commonwealth, 1656, 26; of Cromwell, 1658, struck when die first showed signs of breaking, 23.50; a complete set of ten pieces money of George II, young head, 11.20; Five Brothers Thaler, 1681, field retouched, 6; Siege piece of Zara, 1815, 10. Many of the Medals also brought good prices; and the total must have been very satisfactory to the owner.

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## OBITUARY.

DAVID L. WALTER, LL. B.

IT is with sincere regret that we inform the readers of the *Journal* of the death of Mr. DAVID L. WALTER, so well known to them by his scholarly papers on "The Medals relating to Comets," the concluding portion of which appears in the present number of this Magazine, but without his revision; the proofs were in his hands just before his death, and among his papers was found a sealed envelope, addressed to one of the Editors, containing the closing notes, which he had prepared, from which a portion of the article on another page is printed.

Mr. Walter died on Thursday, June 28, 1892, after a brief but painful illness; his funeral took place from his home, 218 West 119th Street, on the following Sunday, July 1, and was largely attended, the Rev. Dr. F. De Sola Mendez, of the Forty-fourth Street Temple conducting the services. Many prominent members of the Jewish Benevolent and Fraternal Societies were present, a number coming long distances to show their regard for their late friend and companion.

Mr. Walter was born at Cardiff, Wales, in 1843, but had been for many years a resident of New York City, where he was engaged in successful practice as an attorney at law. He was active in various benevolent organizations, especially those connected with the Jewish faith. He was the Presiding officer of the District Grand body of the Order "B'nai B'rith," to which position he had recently been elected, after a valuable service of ten years or more, on important committees, and in subordinate offices. One who knew him well says: "He was a man of quiet and retired disposition, highly esteemed by the members of the Order, and those who knew him best were the most warmly attached to him. He was a man of scholarly attainments, and familiar with a number of languages. He was of an analytical turn of mind, always logical; possessed of a remarkable flow of language, the use of which he never abused, he was an able orator, and the thoughts to which he gave utterance were always clothed in choice diction." The "Hebrew Standard" says: "It was a great shock to a large number of our people, and to many non-Jews as well, when the sudden tidings were spread of his death. Mr. Walter was removed from the sphere of his usefulness in comparative youth. It is not easy to be reconciled to the loss of a man of his intellectual attainments, high character, and sturdy independence, at the early age of forty-eight; and it is difficult, too, to proffer consolation to the stricken wife, whose married life with the deceased was of but two short and happy years' duration."

Mr. Walter contributed several papers to the *Journal*, (beside that mentioned above) on Alchemistic Medals, etc.; he was at work on an elaborate paper on Jewish Medals, for which no one else among American Numismatists was so well fitted; for this he had gathered much material, and had prepared a large number of illustrations; it must be a matter of deep regret, not only to those nearest to him who knew what an immense amount of preparatory work had been done, and how wide were the researches which he had conducted, but to the lovers of the science everywhere, that there seems to be no one sufficiently informed on this interesting topic to take the pen which dropped from his hand, and complete his labors for the benefit of Numismatic learning; so far as we know, nothing on this subject has yet appeared save occasional items. He was, as a friend has said, "Passionately fond of Numismatics; for many years a collector of coins and medals, having given special attention to those relating to Comets, on which he was regarded as the highest authority, at home and abroad, corresponding with the best informed students in Germany, Austria, etc., by whom he was often

consulted, on the mystical medieval pieces relating to alchemy and the abstruse arts of that period." His collection of such pieces, to which his attention was early attracted by their Hebrew legends, etc., is said by those who have seen it, to have been one of high rank and value; how much greater this value would have been, had he been spared to complete his labors, and thus inform collectors generally of the rarity and interest attaching to these singular pieces, none but those who have devoted themselves to gathering a cabinet in some special department can fully realize. Mr. Walter was an active and energetic member of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York, and for several years one of its Vice Presidents.

W. T. R. M.

### EDITORIAL.

THE present number begins a new volume of the *Journal*. For the assistance and encouraging words which its Editors have received during the year just closed, we express our sincere thanks. To take up the work laid down by the retiring Board, which had been done so well for more than twenty years, proved a more serious undertaking than was fully realized at the outset. They had behind them the support of the Boston Numismatic Society, which guaranteed them against loss, and they also had a wide circle of friends and contributors interested in their success,—while the new Board had no such guarantee. The obstacles were many and some of them unforeseen; chief among them were the vexatious delays which our most strenuous efforts proved unable to prevent. Most of these difficulties we have overcome, and but for the recent death of Mr. Walter, mentioned above, after proofs had been sent him, this number would have appeared on the regular date of publication (the 15th of the month). In the coming volume we shall continue the work on the same lines which have been followed during that now closed. As was stated a year ago, the *Journal* will endeavor to give its readers original papers relating to the science, historical notes, and other information of value on Numismatic subjects; its criticisms will be impartial. Our list of correspondents has increased, and we would gladly see it greatly enlarged, and we repeat the statement so often made in the past, that contributions for our pages from all interested in the science will always be welcome, and used whenever available. In closing, we once more pledge our best endeavors to maintain the high position which the *Journal* had won when it passed into the hands of its present Editors.

It has been very pleasant to find in the *Revue Belge de Numismatique*, during the past year, kindly allusions to the *Journal*, and to receive just as the present number goes to press, congratulations from Signor Gnechi, of the *Società Numismatica Italiana*, Milan, on its continuance, with good wishes for its increasing prosperity. The latter gentleman advises us of the foundation of the Society just mentioned, which took place in February last. We cordially welcome this youngest sister to the circle of kindred Societies. An account of its institution appears in the last number of "*Rivista Italiana*," but the magazine has not yet reached us.

WE regret to be obliged to defer accounts of Proceedings of Societies, Book Notices, and other matters in type for the present number, to a future issue.

### CURRENCY.

MONEY which is coming to you does not always arrive.

THE counterfeiter is satisfied when he can spend money as fast as he can make it.

WHEN there is but one coin in a jug it is constantly proclaiming its presence therein.—*Talmud*.

THE Philadelphia girl on a dollar is beautiful, but to the North American eye doesn't any girl look pretty on a dollar?